

(Washington, DC) - In the wake of Tuesday's devastating tornado, Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) has joined US Senators Hutchinson and Cornyn in calling on President Bush to expedite resources for Eagle Pass and Maverick County, Texas,.

"Following up my meeting with the President Wednesday, the Senators from Texas have joined me in urging the President to act immediately and approve Federal funds for emergency assistance for the Eagle Pass disaster recovery efforts," said Congressman Rodriguez. "Yesterday, I saw first hand the damage left by Tuesday's storm while visiting Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras. We need aid now so Eagle Pass can begin to recover from this devastation and start the healing process."

Residents in need of assistance identifying emergency resources available to them can contact our office at 1-866-915-3493.

Text of letter follows and PDF of signed letter attached.

April 26, 2007

The President

The White House

Washington, D.C 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, Governor Perry has requested a major disaster declaration for the State of Texas as a result of recent severe storms and tornadoes that occurred on April 21 and April 24, 2007.

We urge you to expedite the consideration of this request, as we believe that such declaration is critical to ensuring that important mitigation and recovery assistance is made available to the residents of Maverick, Moore, and Swisher Counties as soon as possible.

On April 21, as a result of severe tornado damage, the cities of Tulia and Cactus in Swisher and Moore Counties, respectively, suffered an estimated \$2.4 million of infrastructure damage. Numerous families have not only lost their homes, but also their businesses which will make the recovery process that much more difficult.

Severe storms again struck Texas on April 24, 2007. The tornadoes that hit the city of Eagle Pass in Maverick County that day resulted in seven fatalities and at least 81 injuries. Further, more than 600 families have been reported homeless due to the destruction of their homes covering several city blocks.

We appreciate the efforts underway by the Federal Government to review the State's request in a timely manner, and we respectfully ask that you give this request due consideration. You may be certain that we will work with the Administration to aid the victims of this disaster.

Sincerely,

Kay Bailey Hutchison

John Cornyn

Mac Thornberry

Ciro D. Rodriguez